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Security Council

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Letter dated 23 October 2001 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), I have the honour to convey the attached report on the international security presence in Kosovo covering the period 1 to 30 September 2001.

I should be grateful if you would bring it to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

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Annex

Monthly report to the United Nations on KFOR operations

1. Over the reporting period (1 to 30 September 2001) there were just over 41,500 KFOR troops in theatre, with no major changes in deployment since the last report.

2. The overall situation in Kosovo during the month of September remained relatively calm. Acts of inter-ethnic violence and intimidation continue to be reported, particularly assaults on Romas by Kosovar Albanians in the Mali Alas area. Some violent acts are believed to be linked to local crime rather than being ethnically or politically motivated. With the approach of winter, illegal logging is taking place and KFOR continues to hand over the individuals involved to the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK).

Security

3. During the reporting period, a number of incidents were reported, including bomb threats to the Kosovo electrical company, and damage to two buildings from explosions in Belobrod and Brodosavce in the Multinational Brigade (South), incidents which are believed to be politically motivated. Two off-duty members of the Kosovo Police Service were shot dead while attempting to arrest six cow thieves in Petrovce. One suspect was killed and the other five escaped. A KFOR observation post was surrounded during the night of 16 to 17 September by about 50 Kosovar Albanians carrying torches and throwing rocks. No one was injured, and the crowd dispersed.

4. On 18 September, two Serbian men crossing into Kosovo from Serbia were arrested by KFOR for alleged war crimes. On 28 September, in Koprivnica, one man died when a van with nine Kosovar Serbs inside was fired on. The assailants escaped. On 30 September, a Kosovar Serb woman in Klokot was killed by a booby-trap on the road. Also on 30 September, violence flared up between Kosovar Serbs and Kosovar Albanians in the Serb quarter of Orahovac, and six persons were detained following the intervention of KFOR and UNMIK. A similar clash took place in the Serb enclave of Gojdulja earlier in the month.

5. Three small demonstrations have taken place protesting against the 1,300 Serbs missing in Kosovo. A crowd of 800 demonstrated in Decane against the expulsion of a former Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC) commander for non-compliant behaviour and misuse of his position.

6. In Mitrovica, acts of violence and harassment continue to be reported. KFOR and UNMIK police had to intervene on 17 September to prevent a confrontation between Kosovar Serbs and Kosovar Albanians, and in another incident to prevent the abduction of one of KFOR's Albanian interpreters. On 25 September, three unsuccessful grenade attacks on civilian targets were reported: two in Mitrovica and one in Pec.

7. KFOR continues to uncover weapons caches throughout the province. These have included mortars, bomb-making and booby-trap equipment, mines and other explosives. During the current reporting period, 1,978 weapons were destroyed, bringing the total of weapons destroyed under the weapons destruction programme to 9,989.

Border/boundary security

8. KFOR continued its activities along the borders with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia[a] and with Albania, and continued to confiscate weapons and to deter and detain persons illegally crossing the borders. The expected mass return of National Liberation Army fighters from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia did not materialize. During the reporting period, weapons and ammunition were found daily, and 263 persons were caught and handed over to the UNMIK police. Some 2,407 weapons, 1,722 grenades and mines and 169,719 rounds of ammunition have been seized since June. In one case, persons attempting to cross the border from Albania exchanged fire with KFOR, and then fled back into Albania. Some of the incidents involving this border included suspected smuggling activities.

9. The number of refugees who have made their way into Kosovo from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia since February is estimated to be 81,821, with an estimated 27,940 remaining within Kosovo.

Air safety zone

10. The air safety zone has been reduced from 25 to 10 kilometres.

UNSCR 1160

11. Although KFOR operations continue to result in weapons seizures, there have been no reported violations of Security Council resolution 1160 (1998).[b]

Cooperation and compliance by the Parties

12. With regard to the Kosovo Protection Corps, three cases of non-compliance were reported during September relating to threatening behaviour, unauthorized absence and illegal border crossing. In September, two cases for dismissal relating to absenteeism, lack of discipline and dereliction of guard duty were brought forward, and no cases were closed, leaving 24 cases open. During the months of August and September, a roll-call was conducted throughout the province, resulting in 247 discrepancies.

13. KPC continued to carry out a variety of humanitarian projects throughout the province, with the International Organization for Migration monitoring the projects as well as the funding requirements. The project for the Gjllian sports and recreational ground is continuing under the supervision and support of the Multinational Brigade (East), and involves 30 KPC members.

14. Federal Republic of Yugoslavia security forces remain in general compliance with the terms of the Military Technical Agreement.

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[a] Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.

[b] The Security Council, in its resolution 1367 (2001), decided to terminate the prohibitions established by paragraph 8 and decided to dissolve the Committee established by paragraph 9 of its resolution 1160 (1998) relating to the prohibition on arms sales to Yugoslavia.

Cooperation with international organizations

15. KFOR continues to provide daily assistance to international organizations and non-governmental organizations throughout Kosovo, on request, and to provide security assistance in support of UNMIK police operations.

16. KFOR continues to be involved in the preparations in the lead-up to the Assembly elections scheduled for 17 November.

Return of refugees and displaced persons

17. Fourteen of the 83 Kosovar Serbs who resettled in the Osojane Valley in August have returned to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, citing lack of financial support as the reason.

Outlook

18. The security situation in Kosovo continues to be stable. Criminal activity in the province remains one of the major concerns both to UNMIK and to KFOR. As the election date approaches, rising ethnic tension may pose a risk to KFOR personnel.